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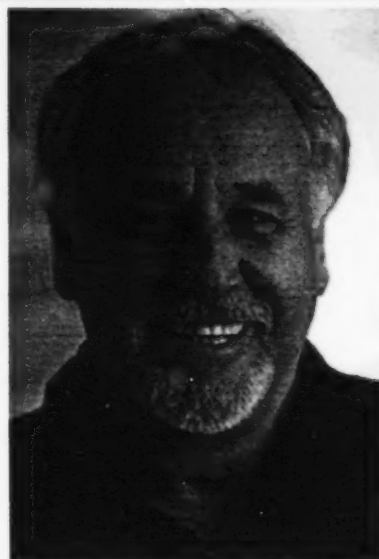
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# April 28, 2008 - François Macerola steps down as Chair of Place des Arts



**Montréal, April 28, 2008** – François Macerola will step down as Chair of the Place des Arts Board of Directors this Wednesday, four years after being appointed head of the public corporation.

"During my time with Place des Arts, I have been able to make a contribution to what I consider to be one of the essential driving forces of cultural life and development in Montréal and Québec," Mr. Macerola says.

Considering that at the time of his appointment, Montréal's *Quartier des spectacles* project was still on the drawing board, Mr. Macerola notes with great satisfaction that the initial phase of this major work is in full swing. He is thrilled that Place des Arts is a key player in such a significant undertaking.

"Not only is Place des Arts strategically located within the urban space devoted to the *Quartier des spectacles*, but it is a veritable inspiration behind it, with 1,000 shows performed last year attracting nearly a million spectators to its five halls," says the Chair of the Board. "The Institution has also breathed new life into the production aspect of its mission by developing artistic series and launching co-productions and co-presentations."

Mr. Macerola continues: "Place des Arts is also experiencing fantastic growth that heralds a promising future. Major projects are about to begin inside and around Place des Arts, including the construction of a new concert hall on the Place des Arts site and the transformation of the *Hall des pas perdus* into the *Grand foyer culturel*, which will become a large indoor public space dedicated to culture."

During his term, Mr. Macerola also presided over creation of the Fondation de la Place des Arts, whose mission is to support various audience-development initiatives, carry out artistic education projects, and raise public awareness of the performing arts, particularly among young people and cultural communities.

Mr. Macerola is an Executive Producer with Cirque du Soleil. He is a well-known personality in the film and television fields, heading Telefilm Canada and the National Film Board of Canada, among other functions. He has conducted

many studies and contributed to the development of policies in the aforementioned fields on behalf of the governments of Québec, Canada and China. He has also served as an adviser to private companies in the industry.

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